

Postmarks *Compiled by Gil High*

From Army Posts Around the World



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Netherlands

AFNORTH's International School

THE AFNORTH International School in Brunssum, Netherlands, accommodates children from preschool to 12th grade.

It includes an elementary school that's open to pupils from 17 nations and a high school that's available to students from 14 nations, said U.S. high school principal Doug Carlson, one of the international school's five principals.

Some 1,250 students are currently enrolled, 450 of them in the high school, he said. Class size in the latter is generally 20, with a half-dozen nationalities represented.

Children come to the school from 17 communities. The farthest is one hour away, in

Rhinedahlem, Germany.

"We guarantee students will receive an education as good or better than the education they would have received in their own nations' schools," Carlson said.

"So we strive hard to develop comparable courses — French as a first language option for Canadian students and Canadian history and geography for Canadian students, as examples," Carlson said.

"International students typically bring our students' educational level up," he added. "Kids develop an appreciation for the

culture of other lands at an early age. Only the best military officers are assigned to NATO. And they set high standards for their children."

Among the benefits of attending an international school

is the exposure to international events, Carlson said. Field trips take students to Spain, England and Crete, among other places. Sports and other extracurricular activities allow students to travel to Belgium, England and Italy. — Heike Hasenauer

Japan

MEDEX 2000 Tests Medical Capabilities

SAGAMI General Depot, 10 miles northwest of Camp Zama, is a forward staging point for prepositioned stocks, including field and general hospitals used in deployments. Although these stocks are regularly inventoried and inspected, setting up the massive tents that make up the hospitals is generally not included in the process.

Thus the reason for MEDEX 2000, the most recent annual exercise to test the prepositioned equipment while honing the professional skills of active-duty and Army Reserve medical units from the continental United States, Hawaii and Japan, plus medical and airlift units of the Air Force and Navy.

"A few years ago, the U.S.

A laboratory technician from the 115th Field Hospital at Fort Polk, La., uses a microscope to determine the white blood-cell count of a blood specimen taken during MEDEX 2000, conducted at Sagami General Depot, Japan.



Army, Japan, commander thought it would be a good idea to pull an entire field hospital out of storage and set it up to ensure it was a functioning system," said LTC Douglas Phelps, USARJ's chief of medical plans and operations. "Now, instead of just going through the motions of putting up this interlocked series of tents, we create a field-training scenario, bring in a medical brigade for command and control, add medical logistics and air-ambulance units, and make this a realistic, operating field hospital."

Phase I of the 2000 exercise was conducted by the Army Reserve's Hawaii-based 411th Engineer Battalion, which cleared a six-acre area to accommodate a hospital. In addition, a long-closed hospital at the depot was converted into barracks to house the soldiers needed to act as casualties and medical staff.

Phase II continued the facility preparation, and by the time soldiers rolled onto the exercise site for the start of Phase III, 42 tents and eight International Standards Organization shelters were up and waiting. The hospital facility, complete with X-ray equipment, operating rooms, laboratory and pharmacy, was fully operational, said SFC Robert Smitley, chief ward master for the 115th Field Hospital from Fort Polk, La.

Next, the 332nd Medical Brigade arrived from Nashville, Tenn., to establish the headquarters. Chief among its responsibilities was ensuring the smooth operation of all aspects of transportation, supply and personnel support, said SFC Ronald Perry, administrative supervisor.

"One of the key Army tenets is to train as we fight," said



Nurse practitioner MAJ Lalaralee Wilson of the 256th Combat Support Hospital examines a young patient's ear canal during the unit's outreach work in Canton.

Phelps. "We wanted to make this as realistic as possible. So we provide live patients in addition to mock patients. With patients actually in the hospital, the staff is responsible for feeding them, getting them showered and handling all the issues they would be faced with if they had actual patients."

Phelps said the goals of MEDEX 2000 were to set up the hospital, validate timeline requirements and identify shortfalls in the equipment.

"We were very successful in all three," he said. — *USARJ PAO*

Ohio

CSH Reaches Out to the Community

"WHEN soldiers can do something in the community, in uniform, it gives them the chance to show their pride," said CPT Mary Burakowski, head nurse at the 256th Combat Support

Hospital, here. "Hands-on work with the community is what drives them. That's why they join the Reserve."

One example of that community service is the unit's assistance to the Canton, Ohio, Community Clinic, a free clinic for low-income patients. Clinic director Mary Cain sought the unit's assistance in an effort to get additional medical volunteers to give physicals to area children. The 256th has performed the physical examinations for Canton children for the past two years.

"The physicals are required so the kids can enter Head Start, a preschool program, and participate in sports," Cain said. The year in which Cain started the program at the clinic, 28 children received physicals. But she knew the need was much greater than her volunteer staff was capable of handling, so she enlisted the assistance of U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula, who contacted the 256th.

With the Army Reserve augmenting Cain's volunteer staff with 40 medical personnel, the clinic can now do more than 400 physicals in a single day.

"Hundreds, literally hundreds of kids in the community can now participate in sports or join Head Start on time," said Cain. "Thanks to the Army Reserve's presence, this annual event is a huge success for the community."

The 256th's personnel operate seven stations to provide medical, dental and auditory exams, record personal profiles, perform lab work and provide immunizations.

The 256th personnel hope they can continue to assist the clinic. "A lot of good feelings are generated between the people in the community and the soldiers, and the soldiers themselves appreciate the respect they receive from the community," Burakowski said. — *MSG David E. Johnson, 256th CSH*